(1) Mandavi District TB Association, Mandavi, Kutch.

(2) Darbad Shri Gopaldas Desai, Anti-TB Clinic, Kaira, Distt. Anand.

(3) Bhartiya Arogya Nichi TB Clinic. Patan, District Mehsana.

(4) Tuberculosis Relief Organisation, Seth Jhagabhani Chest Clinic Compound, Astodia Darwaja, Ahmedabad.

(c) and (d) Anti-TB drugs are provided free of cost to voluntary organisations as per availability.

Steps to deal with the Problem of Blindness

2599. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem of blindness in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to provide proper treatment to the people suffering from blindness and other eye diseases; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Some of the steps taken by the Government to provide eye care facilities to needy people are as under:—

(1) Strengthening of Ophthalmic infrastructure,

(2) Training of Ophthalmic manpower,

(3) Establishment of Distt. Blindness Control Societies,

(4) Expanding coverage to rural and tribal areas,

(5) Creating awareness about the eye care among the masses,

(6) Revising the pattern of assistance to States/UTs and NGOs,

(7) Increasing financial outlay in the annual budget, and

(8) Strengthening the monitoring of Eye Care activities at the Central, State and District level.

Criteria for appointment of non-official Directors on Board of Punjab & Sind Bank

2600. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) criteria/guidelines being followed while appointing non-official directors on Board of Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB);

(b) names of non-official directors on PSB's Board;

(c) details of meetings held by present Board, meeting-wise with important decisions taken by it and contribution by said non-official directors in these decisions;

(d) whether said directors or their relatives are availing any loan/advance facilities from PSB; if so, details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose revamping of said Board in near future and also to induct directors from North-Eastern States; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The non-official directors on the boards of Punjab & Sind Bank have been appointed in accordance with the criteria and procedure prescribed in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 and the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1980.

(b) The names of the non-official directors on the board of directors of Punjab & Sind Bank are indicated below:—

1. Shri Kamal Kishore Gupta
2. Shri Vivek Mehra
3. Shri Norbu Barongpa
4. Shri Rapolu Jayaprakash
5. Shri R.L. Chaudhary

6. Shri Opinder Nath Chhibber
7. Dr. Abad Ahmad

(c) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that the present Board has so far held 19 meetings. Besides laying down the policies of the bank and reviewing their implementation, the Board has been taking decisions about lending, settlement of compromise proposals, hiring and acquisition of premises and other investment decisions. A number of these functions have since been delegated by the Board of Directors to the Management Committee of the Board. The non-official directors have been contributing in all the decisions taken by the Board/Management Committee.

(b) As per the records of Punjab & Sind Bank, none of the non-official directors or their relatives are availing any loan/advance from the bank.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Computerisation of LIC Branches

2601. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all branches of L.I.C. have been computerised;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Premium amount to be deposited by consumers can be deposited only in the specified branch which results in great inconvenience for consumers; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow depositing of premium in any of the branches in view of LIC network being computerised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (c) No, Sir. the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that while at present, the computers have been installed in around 785 branches, they are yet to be linked in a network. To begin with, they propose to network all the branches in the metropolitan cities.

(b) LIC has informed that premiums for policies are to be paid in specified branches where these policies are being serviced. In order to facilitate customer convenience, wherever servicing branches of the LIC are not available, arrangements have been made with the banks in the area to collect the premiums. Until all the branches are linked through computer network, the present system will have to continue.

Cases Registered Against Officials of Punjab and Sind Bank

2602. DR. GOPALARAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of cases registered against officials of Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB) by CBI during last three years, case-wise alongwith names of these officials and their present designations;

(b) details of outcome of said cases, case-wise and those still being investigated;

(c) details of action taken by PSB management against said officials, case-wise;

(d) details of officials suspended and/or dismissed by PSB management for financial irregularities and/or misconduct, official-wise during said years, year-wise; and

(e) details of complaints received by vigilance wing of PSB against its staff during the said years alongwith outcome.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Indian Performance in International Film Festivals

2603. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: